



City of Philadelphia Question Responses

RFI: Using City Assets to Advance Digital Equity

#	Section #	Question	Response
1.	5.3, 5.4	What happens after the RFI submissions process is complete and presuming the City wants to implement a suggested (or similar) idea?	<p>The City will review the proposed ideas. The City may request further clarification or follow up with one or more vendors by telephone, written communication, electronic communication, or a presentation. This RFI is issued with the intent to obtain information that provides guidance that may be subsequently used in the preparation of one or more Request for Proposals (RFP) or a Master Services Agreement (MSA). Responses will be used to assist OIT in gathering information for planning purposes, for purposes of identifying sufficient resources for an implementation initiative, and to consider the best approach to create opportunities for use of city assets. Further, the City does not intend to announce any further actions taken pursuant to this RFI. If any such announcements are made, at the sole discretion of the City, those announcements will be posted with the original RFI. In some cases, at the City's sole discretion, the City may issue an RFP. Any and all contracts related to any use of a City asset/facility will be awarded through a RFP/concession process. The City will notify Respondents to this RFI in the event a RFP has been posted on the City's website.</p>
2.	3	What is the Household Internet Assessment Survey and when was the survey conducted?	<p>During the summer of 2021, the City launched the Philadelphia Household Internet Assessment Survey to better understand the digital access needs of its residents. Previous data—from the 2019 American Community Survey—did not represent the current state of Philadelphia's internet and device usage.</p> <p>To inform its digital equity work, the City needed fresh data and worked with a consultant to create and conduct this survey. This blog post shares some of the highlights of the report. The full report can be found here.</p> <p>The Philadelphia Household Internet Assessment survey was used to inform the City's Digital Equity Plan, published in February 2022.</p>



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3.	4	Is it possible to add assets to the map, such as city-owned lights, kiosks, etc.?	<p>Yes, the City can add additional assets to the map application if this is proposed or suggested as part of the response to the RFI. However, the City may not be able to be exhaustive with that information.</p> <p>There is a concession agreement with Intersection Media Group, which has some exclusivity to it, for the digital kiosks in the public right of way. This does not preclude the City from exploring opportunities to leverage those kiosks. However, any ideas around use of the digital kiosks in the RFI response should take into consideration this 3rd party and existing concession agreement when explaining the value and how to implement the proposed idea.</p> <p>Streetlights are as follows: There are city-owned poles, traffic lights, and other similar facilities which have city-managed streetlights. There are utility poles owned by PECO, the electric utility in the region.</p> <p>If your idea is specifically about 5G-4G small cell deployments, then we can steer you in the direction of the DAS program. The City has a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) digital portal to locate and issue permits on all of these poles. Access to the DAS portal is provided to entities that have executed a Master License Agreement with the City to address the installation and fees associated with installing communications equipment on those poles. To obtain information about the Master License Agreement send an email request containing a brief letter of intent to streetlighting@phila.gov.</p> <p>If you have an idea that's different for how to use the poles, the City would be interested to hear more about your idea. If Respondents put forth this request, we may add a generic layer of streetlight pole information to our mapping. This layer will not indicate any existing or pending small cell antenna attachments.</p>
4.	3	What current SmartCity/IoT applications has the City deployed?	<p>The City has deployed a variety of IoT applications across the city over a number of years including sensors for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Environmental and air quality- Noise



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green stormwater infrastructure - Water system and surface water quality <p>SmartBlockPHL, a joint effort between the Office of Innovation and Technology, the Streets Department, and the Office for Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability (OTIS) was launched in 2021. The pilot is currently in phase one, using smart streetlamps deployed with Lidar sensors and edge computing AI trained to replace the mechanical mechanisms and the manual processes to conduct pedestrian, bike, and car counts on the street and sidewalks. The smart streetlamps also include environmental sensors. Phase two is in the planning stages.</p> <p>In addition, the City is in the process of launching a curbside management pilot project slated to begin this fall designated as the Smart Loading Zone Pilot focused on curbside reservation in center city. This pilot will designate 20 existing loading zones in Council District 1 as “smart loading zones” to help provide reliable and efficient ways for delivery companies to safely use the curb space while also reducing unsafe and illegal parking.</p>
5.		Does Philadelphia have any joint use of poles or conduit agreements with CATV, Telecom. Power, etc?	<p>The City allows for collocation on our poles for different types of equipment such as small cell telecommunication devices. In general, the city is open to collocation on its facilities. PECO has a permitting process that provides guidance for access and billing to PECO power at pole sites.</p> <p>The City will consider joint use of conduit if proposals demonstrate value to the city. It would be helpful to elaborate on these questions in the RFI so the city can consider possible options in any potential or subsequent solicitation. Respondents should include use case examples from other cities or public sector agreements and detail how this has been beneficial to the city or public sector.</p>
6.	4	Is the plan to put small cell sites on city-owned facilities and have we done that before?	<p>As part of this RFI, Respondents are welcome to propose uses of city facilities for small cell and other telecommunications equipment.</p>



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			<p>The map application for this RFI provides the elevation of each asset and the ability to verify distances between buildings. If height information is not listed in some of the assets that you are interested in, please pose that question back through the RFI.</p> <p>Please see the following digital products with building elevation and measurement tools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• https://atlas.phila.gov/• https://openmaps.phila.gov/• https://metadata.phila.gov for an entire inventory with endpoint for aerial, lidar and planimetric datasets
7.	3, 4	Do you have telecommunications connectivity with existing facilities (i.e. City buildings) and infrastructure?	<p>We do have an integrated traffic signal network in place, which feeds into the traffic management center, which the City stood up in 2015. We're still in the process of connecting just over the majority of our signals to the traffic management system (TMS). Many of our traffic signals have older, manual switching technology. The City is looking at different options to maintain the connectivity or establish new connectivity for all traffic signals within the TMS. This could include direct fiber optic or wireless connectivity. As part of the City's forthcoming citywide upgrade to LED streetlights, a lighting control system will be established through which the City will maintain communication with each light control through a wireless network to support maintenance and remote management of the lights.</p> <p>The City owns municipal fiber that connects buildings back to the City's data center, and that fiber relies on circuits from local ISPs. This institutional network (iNET) is dedicated to municipal operations only. There is no publicly available map of the extent of the iNET. The ISP for the iNET is Comcast. Recreation Centers use a mix of Comcast and Verizon Fios services for internet connectivity that are not maintained by the City.</p>
8.		Does there exist today in the city of a support structure to support implementation of potential ideas or is	<p>Sustaining new initiatives, equipment, and programs is challenging. Based on the proposals submitted, we would need to determine what the City's role would be and whether it's valuable for the City to do that work. The City is open to all ideas including any type of</p>



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		the city open to hearing some creative ideas to develop a significant support ecosystem – a customer support structure -- that may work in conjunction with providers of the underlying network that would ultimately deliver against the intent?	managed services. The City would be interested to learn from Respondents their ability to provision managed services, specifically with other municipalities, and we encourage submissions to provide details about this level of experience. You can also propose a solution as an integrator, with a set of relationships or partners that you may have to address a specific solution and include how you would do it in your experience and success serving as that integrator in the program management role.
9.		Is the City interested in professional service support (such as RFP development, grant writing, etc.) or is this RFI more focused on implementation projects?	The City would be interested to learn about the types of professional service support that is available that could support a large-scale solution, whether project management, grant proposal writing, or other types of support. The proposed idea put forward in the RFI should make a clear connection around how the professional support can deliver clear benefits to the City and generate the outcomes we are looking to accomplish on expanding digital equity and revenue generation for digital equity programs. In addition, Respondents should keep in mind that if they participate in the development of a potential future RFP, they are precluded from applying for that same opportunity.
10.	3, 4	Does Risk Management know about small cell sites on city-owned buildings? Maintenance providers will require access agreements, correct? Would small cells limit our ability to sell the asset?	<p>The City’s Department of Risk Management and Law Department will review any agreements involving the attachment of small cell sites on city-owned buildings. We are currently working with facility managers and the city departments.</p> <p>The model of the DAS (small cell permitting) program provides a good example of an agreement that anticipated requirements for replacement equipment and poles and the necessary information on the process including timelines, and responsibilities for both parties.</p>
11.	3, 4	Does the city have or have access to existing Fiber infrastructure it could lend to the project?	See the response to Question #7.



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12.	3, 4	Does the city have the ability to grant the use of street light poles for the purpose of creating a wireless infrastructure?	See responses to questions #3, #4, #6, and #7.
13.	3, 4	Would the city look to own the technology proposed in the RFI long-term or prefers a Managed Service approach?	It would depend on the proposal submitted and the cost/benefit to the City in the short and long-term. The City is open to ideas and encourages Respondents to share concrete examples implemented in other cities.